वर्ष 1998-99 के दौरान पंजाब में प्रति हैक्टेयर कपास का उत्पादन 226 कि.ग्रा. और मध्य प्रदेश में 166 कि.ग्रा. होने का अनुमान है।

Independent Atomic Energy Regulatory Board

*340. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether India had signed in September, 1994 the Convention on Nuclear Safety, which stipulates a clear separation of the Nuclear Safety Regulatory Authority and the agency which promotes the utilisation of nuclear energy in all signatory nations;

(b) if so, whether this separation is maintained between Atomic Regulatory Board and Atomic Energy Commission as per the international convention; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the plans of Government to set up a truly independent Atomic Energy Regulatory Board in the interest of public safety and to conform to the Convention of Nuclear Safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As required by the Convention on Nuclear safety, effective separation exists between the funtions of the Regulatory Board i.e. Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) and the agency which promotes the utilisation of nuclear energy.

(c) Does not arise.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Horticulture in Himachal Pradesh

2481. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating a programme to encourage horticulture and train farmers in the trade Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount proposed to be allocated during the Ninth Plan to each district, separately for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Department of Agriculture & cooperation is already implementing Central Sector Schemes covering Horticulture crops of fruits, vegetables, flowers, mushroom, spices, medicinal and aromatic plants, bee keeping and use of plastics in agriculture etc. Some of these Schemes have the component of training of farmes under them.

(c) During the year 1998-99, Himachal Pradesh has been allocated a sum of Rs. 291.22 lakhs, under central sector horticulture schemes. The district-wise allocation is made by State Government based on the requirements and priorities.

Market Availability for Onion and Cotton

2482. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ever surveyed the market availability for the onion and cotton produced by India;

(b) if yes, then what is the present position; and

(c) whether there is any request from Maharashtra or their farmers pending with Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No specific study has been conducted on market availability for the onion and cotton produced by India. However, the assessment of onion production during 1998-99 was got conducted trough Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC). It is new assessed by the government that the production of onion in the country would be 47.5 lakh tonnes.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Requests for lifting the ban on export of onion were received from Marashtra. Consequently the ban on export of onion was lifted by Ministry of Commerce vide their Notification No. 42 (Re-98)/1997-2002 dated 5.3.99.